



Tiffany

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Louis Comfort Tiffany, c. 1908

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“I have always striven to fix beauty in wood, stone, glass or pottery, in oil or watercolor by using whatever seemed fittest for the expression of beauty, that has been my creed.”

— Louis Comfort Tiffany



Biography

- 1848: Louis Comfort Tiffany is born to Charles Lewis Tiffany, the founder of Tiffany & Co., and his wife Harriet Olivia Avery Young on February 18th in New York City.
- 1866: Tiffany studies under American landscape artist George Inness.
- 1872: As his interest shifts from painting to glassmaking, Tiffany begins working in glass houses in Brooklyn.
- 1879: Louis Comfort Tiffany and Associated American Artists is formed with Candace Wheeler, Samuel Colman and Lockwood de Forest.
- 1882: Tiffany is asked to redesign several rooms in the White House.
- 1885: Tiffany breaks away from L.C. Tiffany and Associated American Artists in order to form his own Tiffany Glass Company.
- 1893: Tiffany Glass Company opens a new factory in Queens, New York, later called the Tiffany Glass Furnaces, which starts to manufacture the glass that is famously known as "favrite".



- 1894: The Tiffany Glass Company trademarks the term “favrite”, which later comes to refer to all the glass, enamel and pottery that the company produces.
- 1895: Tiffany Glass Company begins to commercially produce its famous lamps.
- 1900: Tiffany’s exhibits at the Paris Exposition Internationale earn him a gold medal and the title of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.
- 1902: Tiffany becomes the first Design Director for his father’s company, Tiffany & Co.
- 1904: A new line of pottery, copper enamels and jewellery is exhibited at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri.
- 1906-1916: In addition to the pottery, lamps and jewellery already produced by the company, Tiffany Studios expands its line to gift items like cigar and jewellery boxes, pictures frames, clocks and dishes.
- 1919: Tiffany retires from active participation in Tiffany Studios, but retains his title as president.
- 1933: Louis Comfort Tiffany dies at the age of eighty-five in New York City.



TIFFANY THE PAINTER

Louis Comfort Tiffany was born with a golden spoon in his mouth, but the spoon was immediately tucked away and he was seldom permitted to remember its existence. His father, the eminent goldsmith and jeweler Charles Lewis Tiffany, and his mother, who was Harriet Olivia Young before her marriage, did not believe in spoiling children by allowing them to live on a scale such as their fortune warranted.



Floral Oil Lamp

Leaded favrile glass and bronze.





Education should be thorough, but luxuries few and spending money curtailed. Born February 18th, 1848, their son was still at school when the Civil War was fought, but like many other school boys of that period we can imagine how he deplored the fate of having been born too late to take any part in the contest. Some of his fellow artists in later life such as George B. Butler, Elihu Vedder, and Winslow Homer had been to the war.

Rose Design with Flared Shade

Leaded glass and bronze.



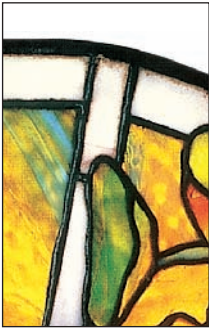


As he grew up he felt the longing for expression which indicates the coming artist and usually makes him cold toward a college career, so that at the age when a youth in his circumstances is pretty sure to be at the university, he was haunting the studios of George Inness, N. A., and Samuel Colman, N. A., the latter being one of the founders and first presidents of that Society of Painters in Water Colors which became the

Floral Hanging Lamp

Leaded glass, bronze.





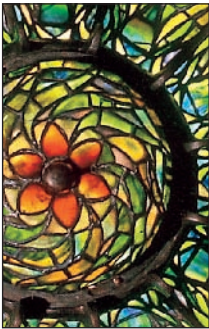
American Water Color Society and also one of the original members of the Society of American Artists, merged later into the National Academy of Design.

George Inness was a man peculiarly fitted, through certain sides of his character, to rouse the interest of a pupil. His incisive, outspoken views on art were supplemented by a stimulating if somewhat chaotic philosophy in which the sublime ideas of Swedenborg took a

Floral Ceiling Light

Leaded glass and bronze.





prominent place. I remember hours passed in his studio in the old University building on Washington Square when he would stand before his easel making and unmaking a picture with rapid strokes of his brush, all the while pouring forth a stream of talk in which, unlike that of other artists, a strong religious feeling appeared and was lost, only to reappear again like the white streaks which tinge a river below the cataract.

Daffodil Lamp

1899.

Height: 96.5 cm.

Courtesy McClland & Lars Rachen, Ltd.





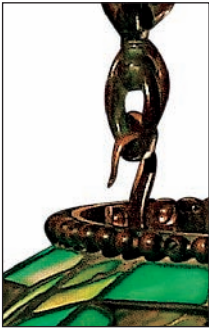
Inness in 1878 attempted to fix some of these fleeting ideas in Harper's Monthly when he wrote:

"The true use of art is, first, to cultivate the artist's own spiritual nature and, secondly, to enter as a factor in general civilization. And the increase of these efforts depends on the purity of the artist's motives in the pursuit of art. Every artist who, without reference to external circumstances, aims truly to represent the ideas

Mosaic Arrowhead Base N°. 145 with Rose Shade

Leaded favrile glass and bronze.





and emotions which come to him when in the presence of nature is in process of his own spiritual development and is a benefactor of his race. No man can attempt the reproduction of any idea within him from a pure motive or love of the idea itself without being in the course of his own regeneration. The difficulties necessary to be overcome in communicating the substance of his idea (which in this case, is feeling or emotion) to the end that

Nasturtium Lamp, Model N°. 607

Height: 57 cm.

Courtesy McClland & Lars Rachen, Ltd.



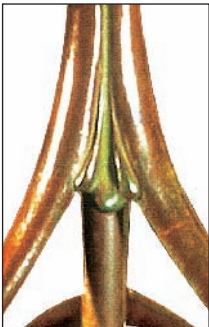


the idea may be more and more perfectly conveyed to others, involve the exercise of his intellectual faculties; and soon the discovery is made that the moral element underlies all, that unless the moral also is brought into play the intellectual faculties are not in condition for conveying the artistic impulse or inspiration. The mind may, indeed, be convinced of the means of operation,

Tree Lamp, Trunk and Root-Shaped Base, Floral Shade

Favrile leaded glass, bronze.





but only when the moral powers have been cultivated do the conditions exist, necessary to the transmission of the artistic inspiration which is from truth and goodness itself. Of course no man's motive can be absolutely pure and divine."

The pupil must have shared this master's love of watercolor. Indeed Isham, an excellent judge of his fellow artists, has written concerning him.

Azalea Table Lamp

Leaded glass and bronze, shade: 55.9 cm.





“There was much of Colman’s love of warm, pure color in his paintings in transparent wash or in gouache on rough straw-board, of Italian or Mexican scenes, that used to light up the early exhibitions the Water Color Society, the firmness of outline and energy of drawing being probably the result of French training.”

These last words refer to a third artist whom Tiffany admired and visited, Leon Belly of Paris, who,

Bamboo Library Lamp

Favrile glass, bronze, lead, shade: 55.88 cm.